

GREEN'S A GO

[for now]



FILE PHOTO

In a Missourian file photo, University Police Chief Clarence Green, the newly-appointed interim president of Northwest, addresses the Northwest graduating class of 2019 at Bearcat Arena in May.

UPD chief chosen for NW interim president

“

I think we’re ready to move forward, and, you know, calm some of the angst in where we’re at in the transition,”

-SHANDA DURBIN
NORTHWEST REGENT

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

Nearly 48 hours after the Northwest Board of Regents voted to expedite the process of naming the interim president, the University sent out a press release announcing Clarence Green, current vice president of culture, will be serving as Northwest’s new leader while the Board searches for a permanent replacement.

Green will assume the position July 1, when current President John Jasinski’s contract expires.

“Clarence has a long history of distinguished service at the University,” Chair John Moore said in the press release. “He has deep roots in the community and great relationships with students, faculty, staff and alumni. He’ll work closely with those constituencies to keep the University moving forward.”

Green has been at Northwest since 1996 and has served as the vice president of culture since April 2019. In this position, he has oversight of the Office of Human Resources, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and the University Police Department.

Being in an interim position is not new to Green, as he has also served as the interim vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as the interim vice president of Human Resources.

“I look forward to serving Northwest as its interim president during this time of transition,” Green said in the press release. “Northwest is in a position of strength to continue its successful path due to its great students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

He has also served in law enforcement for more than 25 years, spending time as the University police chief. Green has also led presentations and training on leadership, diversity and inclusion, ethics, crisis management and many more.

The Board expects Green to leverage the University’s current mission and strategic framework, which will not change, the press release said. Northwest will continue its focus on student success, Moore said in the release.

When it came to the decision of naming an interim president, the voting lines on expediting the process were identical to those who voted on the extension of President John Jasinski’s contract, with the exception of Shanda Durbin, who did not vote. Regents Deborah Roach and Roxanna Swaney were the only Regents who voted to extend the contract in a closed meeting April 7, while John Moore, Stephen Coppinger, Mel Tjeerdsma and Jason Klindt voted no.

Roach was the first Regent to vote no on speeding up the process of finding an interim. She said they should wait until after the May 4 meeting. Swaney voted no for the same reason.

“I voted no based on the fact that I think it would be in the best interest of all to wait until after the May 4 meeting, which is going to be open for public comments, to make a determination,” Roach said.

On the other side, some Regents said it was simply time to progress with new leadership, with hopes it would ease some worries people have about the future of the University.

“I think that we probably need to move forward with going ahead and selecting the interim,” Klindt said. “A part of the reasoning being that I think it will just help with folks to know what’s coming next. You always have some anxiety around these things amongst faculty and others. It always helps to kind of define the plan for moving forward, so I would be for moving forward as quickly as we can here, Mr. Chairman.”

SEE GREEN | A4

Northwest Missouri’s oldest and largest independently-owned and operated bank.



NODAWAY VALLEY BANK

Maryville
660-562-3232

Mound City
660-442-3131

Savannah
816-324-3158

St. Joseph
816-364-5678

Member FDIC

Northwest bookstore to switch operators, Student Body to takeover

NATHAN ENGLISH
Managing Editor | @nathan_3nglish

A permanent fixture in the Northwest community for the past three decades will officially begin making its move on campus in the coming months.

President John Jasinski announced via his April 8 “All That Jazz” newsletter that Northwest had entered an agreement to have Student Body take over the bookstore and spirit shop on campus, switching from previous partner Barnes and Noble, which managed the bookstore for 38 years. The official takeover will take place July 1.

It’s an arrangement owner Jim Goecken is “excited” about.

“We’ve kind of been on the outskirts of campus since we started, but dealt a lot of stuff with Northwest University’s athletic department, admissions, stuff like that. So, it’s just a natural fit for us,” Goecken said.



NATHAN ENGLISH MANAGING EDITOR
Jim Goecken, one of the owners of Student Body, stands among the store’s racks. The shop has been a Maryville staple since 1992. The Student Body will be taking over the bookstore and spirit shop operations July 1.

Goecken owns and operates the store with his wife, Amy, both of whom are Northwest alumni. Rose Viau, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, said the Goeckens’ connection to the University is part of their appeal.

“They have a different kind of stake in the game, you know, than maybe a national company might,” Viau said.

Viau and Matt Baker, vice president of Student Affairs, will work closely with the Student Body during the transition.

The decision to partner with the University and take over the bookstore and spirit shop was not one on their “radar,” Goecken said. The Student Body had existing apparel-related deals with Northwest but not one on this scale. They got an email about the Bearcat Bookstore opportunity a little under two months ago and decided to leap at it.

The move will come with un-

charted territory, Goecken said. He and his wife have extensive experience in apparel, selling Northwest and Spoofhound gear — among other things — since 1992. However, the foray into books will be a new adventure for them.

“It’s going to be a learning curve, a little bit, on that side of it,” Goecken said.

The future bookstore operator said they are aiming to make some aesthetic changes. The bookstore has looked about the same for the past two decades, he said with a laugh.

The vision for the new bookstore is similar to the interior of the Student Body — modernizing the look and adding some new paint, carpets and stands.

“It’s going to be more basic stuff, more graphics, more student-friendly,” Goecken said of the possible changes.

The arrangement will also come with a pop-up spirit shop that will

make an appearance on game days, so those in attendance can get the latest Bearcat gear.

The Student Body owner said they are in talks with Scott Yocom, current bookstore manager, to see whether he would want to return. No decisions have been made at this time.

“Barnes and Noble has been a tremendous partner for Northwest, and we appreciate the dedication of Scott Yocom and his team,” Jasinski said in “All That Jazz.”

University students will staff the store, a move similar to the current bookstore and to the Student Body. Goecken has made a habit of having students as employees since Student Body first opened.

There are still details to iron out before Student Body takes the reins of the bookstore. For example, they still have to come up with a name.

“We’re excited to get in there, maybe make some changes, and see what we can do,” Goecken said.

Library receives \$50,000 grant for restoration

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

Since 1912, the building that is now Maryville Public Library has sat along Main Street. With over a century of weathering and use, there are some much-needed repairs. To help with upkeep, the library received the first grant through the city’s Downtown Facade Improvement Grant for \$50,000.

The building that was first used as the Maryville Post Office is built out of limestone, and the century-old structure comes with regular maintenance to make sure moisture doesn’t seep into the stones and cause algae to grow.

Library Director Stephanie Patterson said she noticed chipping on the stones when she first started working at the library 14 years ago. After that, she looked into maintenance and found that special cleaning is required for the upkeep of the old stones.

At the time, Patterson said the library’s budget was too small to pay for the price of maintaining the historic building. After a sales tax was passed in 2017 to help generate more funds to help with programming, resources and overall upkeep of the library, the library was able to set aside some funds that could go toward the recovery and preservation of the stone.

“We bid out that work, and we were initially thinking it would be maybe \$20,000 to \$60,000, and end up being the bids that we received were more like \$90,000 to 250,000.”

With finding out the project maintenance was going to cost much more than expected, the library started to tighten its budget and thought about dipping into its reserves to pay for the deferred maintenance.

In December, City Council announced it would be using \$200,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act funds to go toward these downtown improvement grants. Patterson said that when she heard of these grants, the library was eager to get an application in.

City Manager Greg McDaniel said these grants are generally an incentive designed for the community to revitalize and remodel the exterior of buildings.

“We have numerous entities, both businesses and nonprofits, that have applied for funds,” McDaniel said.

Patterson said the library had a bid from MTS Contracting, based out of North Kansas City, that came in at just over \$100,000 for the repairs. The grant that was given will reimburse around 50% of the cost.

“For us, it was a big relief because our budget was being squeezed in different ways already,” Patterson said. “So, yeah, we’re very relieved right now that we’re gonna get a little help in covering about half the cost of this.”

This was just the first of more grants coming to other businesses around Maryville. McDaniel said there have been around eight to 10 applications, and the city’s internal review committee will be announcing more grants in the future.

“The library’s, you know, super thankful to the city of Maryville for spreading that released federal money around back to taxpayers and to organizations, to business owners and things in there,” Patterson said. “They’re doing a lot of paperwork to make that possible. So I hope we have some private property owners that take advantage of that.”



MADDISYN GERHARDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Ashlyn Peterson, big sister, and Emmy Wallace, her little sister, play a game of Uno while drinking Root Beer after school. Peterson has been a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters since November of 2020.

Big Brothers Big Sisters create scholarship for graduating littles

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nodaway County nonprofit organization has established a new scholarship for littles graduating high school across Nodaway County. The new scholarship comes after a successful financial year and federal aid. The scholarship is made up of \$2,500, which may increase over the years with the BBBS funding. The amount of money given to a graduating little may vary anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000. The scholarship is ready for the end of the 2021-22 school year, with applications closing April 20.

“The newly announced scholarship that we’re providing to high school seniors is something that we’ve wanted to do for a long time and didn’t have the financial means or a way to go about it,” said Lynette Harbin, executive director of BBBS of Nodaway County. “We had a really good year last year financially, and we felt like there was no better time than now to create this scholarship and have it be something that we try to do every single year.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a national nonprofit organization made up of adult volunteers, or “bigs,” to be a role model to and have a relationship with children who need them, or “littles.”

The scholarship is open to any child who has been in Nodaway County BBBS at any point. Harbin said the scholarship is for any type of education after high school. The scholarship is also open for community colleges

and trade schools.

“We are a firm believer that four-year universities are not for everyone,” Harbin said. “We wanted the kids that are in our program that feel like a four-year university isn’t attainable to go on and get a specialized degree in mechanics or something that would be more beneficial to them. We want to be able to help those kids out.”

Harbin, who has been working with BBBS for nearly 12 years, said federal funding during the start of the pandemic kept the organization afloat. After a “really horrible year” in 2020, BBBS bounced back with government funding and successful fundraisers.

Its fundraisers included a glow foam 5K walk held last September, bowling last February, and a donation dinner toward the end of the year. BBBS held its annual Bowl for Kids’ Sake at Bearcat Lanes April 8 and raised \$46,000 in one night, compared to last year’s \$38,700, which Harbin called “their absolute biggest fundraiser.”

BBBS is also partnering with the University in their annual Big Green Moveout donation, which started April 18. BBBS has a trailer for donations located in the parking lot behind Valk Center, as well as bins at the Northwest residence halls and at Maryville’s Dollar General, Sutherlands, Hy-Vee and Walmart.

The donation encourages students moving back home for the summer to “think green” and donate items they no longer need for littles, such as clothing, nonperishable foods and household items. Food items may also be donated to the Bearcat Food Pantry.

NW to add 4 new business certificates

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

Six new programs will be added to the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth School of Business for the fall semester.

Two online Master of Business Administration programs will be added, one with an accounting emphasis and one with a finance emphasis. The other four are certificate programs in accounting, finance, human resource management and marketing.

This spring, the graduate office saw a 27.8% increase in enrollment, which helped boost overall enrollment to the highest that the University has ever seen, with 7,218 students. The 2,602 graduate students make up 36% of Northwest’s population.

Ben Blackford, director of the School of Business, said these programs came directly from student feedback.

“Everybody takes the same seven core classes, then the concentration areas for the MBA kind of come from those other three classes,” Blackford said. “We had a lot of students tell us they were having a hard time picking just one, and so that’s where the certificates came about.”

The certificates are an extra four classes students can take in addition to their MBA program. Blackford said it gives students an opportunity to get an MBA with a specific concentration and have another certification in a different area.

“It could also be very handy for maybe some who’ve got an MBA previously or other graduate degrees and had a specific interest in one of those areas, they can come back and get a certificate in finance or accounting,” Blackford said.

Students also have the opportunity to take the extra classes required for the certificate in addition to the classes they’re taking toward their MBA degree.

“We expect that we will probably have many people that will do that,” Blackford said. “They will take the classes towards their MBA in human resources and pick up the finance or analytics classes while they are enrolled in their MBA.”

Adding these MBA programs and certificates also gives students an opportunity to earn hours toward the Certified Public Accountant Exam. The CPA requires students to have 150 credit hours to be able to take the exam, and by taking these extra courses toward the certificates, it will help them earn credit hours while simultaneously earning more credentials.

“This gives those students the chance to also do an accounting MBA while they’re preparing for that assessment,” Blackford said. “So, while our program is set up to provide all the knowledge they need for the CPA exam in the undergraduate degree, this is another option for them to stay in their area while earning those additional hours for the CPA.”

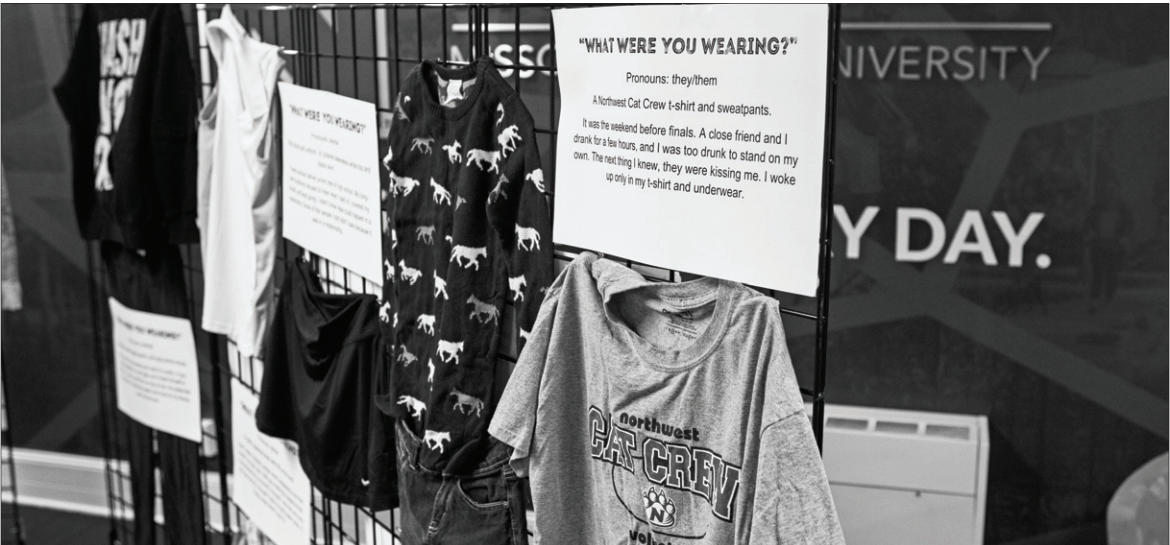
"We had a lot of students tell us they were having a hard time picking just one, and so that’s where the certificates came about."

-BEN

BLACKFORD
DIRECTOR OF THE
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Blackford said he is optimistic as the spots in the programs start to near capacity.

“We’re very happy with the incredible discussions and teamwork that they do, and I have so many telling me how impressed they are with what they’ve learned from other people in the MBA,” Blackford said. “So adding the certificates, adding the finance and accounting also gives us a chance to kind of broaden that foundation and give people a lot of opportunities to learn.”



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the "What Were You Wearing?" exhibit displays clothing and stories of sexual assault survivors to dispel the mindset that sexual assault is due to the clothing a person is wearing. The exhibit will be accessible throughout the month in the Administration Building.

Campus hosts events for Sexual Assault Awareness

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a month of education and reflection regarding the topic of sexual assault. It was first nationally observed in the United States in 2001, and it has been observed by Northwest through various events during the month for many years.

One of the biggest events on campus that has been ongoing since the start of this month is the “What Were You Wearing?” display in the Administration Building. The exhibit displays clothing along with stories of survivors of sexual assault to change the mindset that sexual assault happens due to the clothes a person is wearing.

One way the Maryville community has become involved in Sexual Assault Awareness Month is through a business called Hearth and Clay. Julia Day, owner of Hearth and Clay, has made clay earrings and signs in teal, the awareness color for sexual assault, in honor of the month. She is donating 100% of the proceeds for these earrings and signs back to North Star Advocacy Center throughout this month. Minnie Lane is selling them all month as well. Anyone interested can follow her page on Facebook or Instagram to place an order.

North Star Advocacy Center, originally named The Children’s Center of Northwest Missouri, was established in 1998, and it provides services to victims of sexual and domestic violence. It serves Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway and Worth counties with case and crisis management, court advocacy, a 24-hour

Crisis Hotline, a local sexual assault response team and more.

Meghann Kosman, court and victim advocate and volunteer coordinator for North Star, said Sexual Assault Awareness Month is important because it helps clear up misconceptions people may have about sexual assault.

“I think there is a lot of misinformation out there and misunderstanding about sexual assault, whether that goes off of culture, what we’ve been taught, what we see in the media, or what we learn from our friends,” Kosman said. “Those misunderstandings sometimes purposely, and sometimes unintentionally, go towards this culture of blaming the victim, which is not helpful when we have victims of sexual assault going on their journey of healing.”

Another event will be Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, a collaboration between the Northwest Interfraternity Council, The Wellness Center and North Star.

IFC members will be walking a mile in high heels as a tribute to women who have experienced sexual assault. The event will start at 5 p.m. April 26 at the Memorial Bell Tower.

There will also be a “Denim Day” April 27, in which Northwest students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to wear denim to show support for survivors of sexual assault.

Kosman said sexual assault education is an important part of prevention and giving support to survivors.

“When people have a better understanding of sexual assault, consent, the laws and how it truly affects victims of sexual assault, I think that healing will be a little bit easier for the people

who are affected,” Kosman said.

A different event occurring in the community will be the Putt Putt Pub Crawl, which will be a collaboration between the city of Maryville and North Star. This event will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 30, and all proceeds will go to North Star. It will be \$40 per team of four, and you can go to any of the participating bars to register. The participating bars and liquor stores are The Pub, Burny’s Sport Bar, Shooters, The American Legion, Bearcat Lanes, Hy-Vee, 39th Street Liquor and The Powerhouse Bar.

Health and Wellbeing Assistant Vice President Chris Dawe said sexual assault is often seen by many people as a women’s issue when, in reality, it’s the exact opposite.

“Far too often we think of sexual assault as a women’s issue. It’s not,” Dawe said. “It’s a really unfortunate thing, but we’re still doing things like teaching self defense to women to protect themselves and to stay safe, when the focus should be much more on the other side of that equation.”

Kosman said she wants students who have been sexually assaulted to know they’re not alone and it was not their fault.

“For students who have not experienced sexual assault, be a good listener, ally and advocate. You don’t have to have the job title of victim advocate to make a difference,” Kosman said.

For students who are interested, anyone over 18 can volunteer at North Star in various ways. For more information about volunteering, contact Kosman through email at advocate1@northstarac.org, or by phone at 660.562.2320 or visit the North Star website.

Worship in Maryville

The monks of Conception Abbey invite you to join them for prayer, just 20 miles east of Maryville. People of all faiths are always welcome.

For a complete listing of our daily prayer schedule, visit www.conceptionabbey.org/guests.

CONCEPTION
Living the Benedictine Tradition

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

Sundays:
9 a.m. Discipleship Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship onsite
lives streamed on our facebook page
[Facebook.com/FFCMaryvilleMo](https://www.facebook.com/FFCMaryvilleMo)

201 West Third, Maryville
660.582.4101

Campus contact: Deena Poynter
660.541.1336

www.fccmaryvillemo.com
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Everyone is Welcome Here

WWW.MARYVILLEFUMC.ORG EMAIL: PASTORKIM@MARYVILLEFUMC.ORG
YOUTUBE: MARYVILLE FUMC FACEBOOK: FUMCMARYVILLE

Join us for worship
Sundays at 9 and 11 am

660-582-4821
CORNERS OF 1ST & MAIN, MARYVILLE, MO

SUNDAYS 9 AND 10:30

1122 S. MAIN STREET
THEBRIDGEMARYVILLE.COM

THE BRIDGE | WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

333 South Davis Street
Maryville, MO 64468

Mass times:
Saturday- 5:00 p.m.
Sunday- 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Monday- 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday- 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday- 8 a.m.
Reconciliations by appointment.

www.stgregorysmaryville.org

ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH

S536943@NWMISSOURI.EDU



SILVIA ALBERTI PHOTOGRAPHER

The 99th Student Senate Executive Board members each gave their goodbyes at the final closing during the April 19 meeting in the J.W. Jones Student Union. Hunter Grantham, Jenna Lee Johnson, Chloe Kallhoff and Bailey Hendrickson will be leaving Senate.

99th Student Senate says goodbye

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Emotions were high at the final meeting of the 99th Student Senate Executive Board before members pass on their positions to next year’s representatives.

As the meeting came to a close, President Bailey Hendrickson, Vice President Hunter Grantham, Treasurer Jenna Lee Johson and Secretary Chloe Kallhoff all gave heartfelt goodbye speeches.

“It’s been an honor to serve you guys up here on the exec board,” Grantham said. “I hope you guys got a lot out of it. I know we all did. It’s gonna be weird to think about not having anything Tuesday nights. Thank you for an amazing year.”

“I know I said thank you to everyone earlier, but I want to thank the Executive Board. You

guys became my best friends this year, and I love you and thank you,” Johnson said.

While Johnson and Grantham will be moving on to student teaching in the fall, Kalhoff and Hendrickson will be graduating.

“Thank you guys so much for allowing me to sit up here every Tuesday night. It’s been a complete blast and I’m very sad. I think it’s finally hitting me that I will not be here in two weeks to sit up here with all of you guys. It’s been a pleasure, so thank you,” Kallhoff said.

Hendrickson started her speech by thanking her fellow Executive Board members, saying they were some of her biggest encouragers and some of the greatest leaders she has met, and she thanked them for taking on these roles alongside her. She added that over her four years in Senate, she has become a different person and leader than

she was when she first came to Northwest and first joined Senate.

“This organization has shaped me into a more developed leader, and more importantly, the people in this organization helped me be the leader I am today,” Hendrickson said. “The biggest piece of inspiration I have for the 100th Student Senate is to not remain the same. I hope that you can look back at this time next year and realize that you have changed and, hopefully, for the better.”

Next week’s meeting will be the final meeting of the year, with the 100th Senate Executive Board taking over.

The 99th Executive Board also gave their final appropriation of the year to the Physical Education Professionals Club. It requested an appropriation of \$800 to cover various travel expenses for its trip to the Society of Health and Physical Education

America Convention.

“It’s pretty much like Missouri SHAPE that we went to in the first semester, except instead of just all Missouri P.E. teachers and health teachers, they’re taking all of those committees from all 50 states and bringing them to one place,” said Roscoe Flint, treasurer of Physical Education Professionals Club.

This convention will be held April 26-29 in New Orleans.

“At the convention, I will be presented the National Outstanding Physical Education Major Award representing Northwest Missouri State University Physical Education,” said Abagale Lingle, president of Physical Education Professionals Club. “I am also the MO SHAPE president elect, so MO SHAPE is sending me completely free,” Lingle said.

Senate voted unanimously to appropriate the funds.

CRIME LOG

for the week of April 21

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

- April 13**
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Willow Hall.
- There is an open investigation for stealing in Tower Suites East.
- April 12**
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Hudson-Perrin Hall.

Maryville Police Department

- April 16**
A license plate was lost or stolen on the 1600 block of South Main Street.
- There is an ongoing investigation for stealing on the 200 block of West Thompson Street.
- A summons was issued to **Payne D. Dotson**, 29, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Main Street.
- A summons was issued to **Jason L Sarabia**, 24, for failure to appear in court on the 300 block of North Main Street.
- There was an accident between **Daniel S. Mullens**, 27, and **Lisa E. Beattie**, 29, on U.S. Highway 71 and U.S. Highway 136. **Mullens** was issued a citation for following too close.

- April 15**
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 1100 block of North Mulberry Street.

- April 13**
A summons was issued to **Jeffrey A. Ebrecht**, 38, for peace disturbance and resisting arrest on the 700 block of North Buchanan Street.

- April 12**
There was an accident between **Brooklyn P. Woods**, 18, and **Mark D. Collins**, 58, on North Munn Street and West Third Street. Collins was issued a citation for careless and imprudent driving.
- There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 1900 block of South Main Street.

GREEN

CONTINUED FROM A1

Tjeerdsma and Durbin agreed.

“I think it’s time for us to move on,” Tjeerdsma said.

“I think we’re ready to move forward, and, you know, calm some of the angst in where we’re at in the transition,” Durbin said.

Coppinger, who was having audio issues during the meeting, said he was at a baseball game and asked people to “bear with me.”

5

out of seven Regents voted to expedite the naming process for interim president

Northwest presents final performance of semester after month of preparation

JOE CONNELLY
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Theatre Northwest presented Molière’s “The Imaginary Invalid” in the Mary Linn Auditorium at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts from April 13 to April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The play, translated by Miles Malleson, is centered on hypochondriac Monsieur Argan and his daily doctor visits. Doctors, knowing Argan is perfectly healthy, prescribe him worthless medicines and procedures to dupe him out of his money. Meanwhile, Argan wants his daughter to marry a doctor so he can save on his medical bills and always have a physician handy – even though she’s in love with someone else.

Complicating matters, Argan’s scheming wife wants to send the daughter to a convent to profit from Argan’s pension and savings. Soon Argan’s saucy maid and nurse and his pragmatic, kind brother join in a mad-



FILE PHOTO

In a file photo, Theatre Northwest acts a scene from Molière’s “The Imaginary Invalid” in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts. The play, translated by Miles Malleson, is centered on hypochondriac Monsieur Argan and his daily doctor visits.

cap scheme to save true love and find a way to help Argan give up the doctors for good.

Senior Abbey Southworth played the part of the spunky French maid, Toinette. Southworth said people who attended the show had a good laugh.

“It was a highly humorous and witty play,” Southworth said. “The audience got to see me pretend to be a man who may or may not have sounded like Severus Snape.”

Overall, Southworth enjoyed working on the show and the process that comes with putting on a production.

“My favorite part of the process has been bringing new things to rehearsals every night,” Southworth said. “I love to try new things and see what works and what doesn’t. I don’t think there was a night of rehearsals where I didn’t break character on stage.”

Freshman Connor Gorman attended the performance April 13. He said his favorite part was when Grace Garrigan and Drew Walker were singing while Abbey South-

worth played an instrument.

“I have been to theater performances before, but this might have been the strangest one I’ve ever seen,” Gorman said. “But, I think people should go to shows in the future to support their fellow Bearcats.”

Junior Logan Poppe also attended the performance April 13. Her favorite part was also the scene where Garrigan and Walker were singing because it made her laugh uncontrollably.

“Ever since I took theater appreciation as a freshman, I’ve enjoyed going to theater performances at Northwest,” Poppe said. “I recommend going to at least one theater performance before you graduate.”

This performance concluded Theatre Northwest’s 2021-2022 season.

“The cast and crew have worked really hard on it for a little over a month, and I was glad I was able to share my love for Toinette with my friends, family and the entirety of Northwest,” Southworth said.

A SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROJECT

“LETTERS FROM...”

CONTINUING THE “LETTERS FROM...” PROJECT

The “Letters from...” project was created in partnership with the Northwest Missouri Editorial Board, Northwest Wellness Services and North Star Advocacy Center, and will be a part of the Opinion section. The series started with the March 24 issue and will run throughout the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A portion of submitted letters will be published in print, and all eligible letters during the length of the series will be published at nwmissourinews.com.

The project’s purpose is to give a platform for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories anonymously. The letters are a series of first-hand accounts of consent and sexual vio-

lence from Northwest students.

Through this project, survivors are encouraged to be as open and honest with their stories as they wish.

Survivors wishing to share their stories can submit letters to lettersfrom00@gmail.com. We ask that submissions are free of names, quotes that could link directly to an individual, or calls to action that could harm oneself or others. Letters will be edited for grammar and AP style. If your letter does not meet the criteria initially, feel free to resubmit with edits.

The Editorial Board, Wellness Services and North Star will not share any confidential information with any outside sources.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT FROM VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, WHICH MAY CONTAIN TRIGGERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR ATROCITIES. THEIR STORIES OF SURVIVAL AND BATTLING STIGMAS REMAIN ANONYMOUS. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE RESOURCES LISTED ON THIS PAGE.

FROM: ANONYMOUS

I was 7 years old when it first happened. My childhood friend introduced me to an older high school girl, and then the men they hung around. It began with the internet and videos and pictures. I was exposed to things that were meant to normalize the abuse I was put through. During this period, I was being bullied at school as well, leading me to become anxious and depressed. I would pick at my skin till I bled, I felt dirty and feared telling anyone what was happening. I was convinced that as much as I feared my abusers, I had loyalty and believed that this was a form of love. I truly believed it to be my fault. It culminated in me trying to overdose when I was 8 years old. I survived, luckily, with my father noticing pills missing. I didn’t tell my parents what was happening, though. The multitude of ways I was being abused and used. The shame and fear skewed my perception of everything. I believed the abuse was all I was worth. I truly believed it would be a greater mercy to have died than suffer through further. But I did.

It continued for years. I had two other suicide attempts as a teenager, multiple instances of self-harm, and much therapy where I continued to refuse to admit my abuse. Men and women alike, all adults far older than me, perpetuated my pain for their pleasure. It wasn’t till I was 17 it ended and I escaped. The trauma stayed still; I was barely able to recognize the way that I was violated and degraded till I was 20 and went to therapy again to tackle it all. It included a lot of EMDR, processing, and understanding that I was taken advantage of. As a man, discussing my abuse felt wrong, as though it made me dangerous. But I was not at fault for what happened, and it did not make me broken. I am capable of loving and being loved. I have finally learned what healthy relationships look like and that I am deserving of them. All other survivors should have the chance to recognize this as well — you are not tainted. You are not your pain. Your experiences matter and so do you.

FROM: ANONYMOUS

Dear H,

I do not hate you. I do not even despise you. H, I do not hate you for what you did to me, but I forgive you. You were the last of many to abuse me. The last of many I wasn’t able to stop. You are the very last person to have sex with me. But, before I tell you what I forgive you for, I have to tell you what I thank you for. It is because of you, H, I let go. I let go of every ounce of control I thought I had in this world. It is because of you, I let go of being scared. Being scared of what would happen if I said no. If I kicked, if I screamed. H, it is because of you, I started saying *no*. Fighting back. It is because of you that I have chosen sobriety. Because of you, I let go and let God. You see, you were the last blow I could take. I was an addict at the time, unable to say no to a free high. It is because I could not say no to the *high*, I could not say no to *you*. I was unable — unable to move, think, speak, scream. It is when you raped me, I had nothing left to offer. Nothing left to give anymore. And that is when God came. When I had nothing left to do but surrender every kick I thought I could take. I came to the end of myself. H, I thank you. You

were the final punch I needed. No matter how bad, He always makes it good. He always makes a way.

So, I forgive you. I forgive you for inviting me over, knowing my boyfriend, your brother, was sick and asleep. I forgive you for lying to me. When you told me we would all hang out together. Of course, I believed you. Of course, I trusted you. And I forgive you, when you kept asking me to take more hits. When you kept putting it to my mouth and telling me to do more, and more. I forgive you when you didn’t listen. When I told you I was too high, you made me do more. And H, I forgive you for the harassing, the pressuring, the forcing. It is when we both knew I was too high, when we both knew I wouldn’t be able to drive home, sit up, get out of the bed. When you knew I wouldn’t be able to keep telling you no anymore. I forgive you for touching me without my consent. I was half-conscious, unable to know what was really happening. Too high. Too high to speak, to say no. Too high to do anything at all. I forgive you, truly, H. Even after you pulled down my underwear, after you climbed on top of me, when you shoved yourself into my body. I forgive you, for hurting me. For the pain. Even when I said I didn’t want to, that I loved your brother. Even when you told me to say

your name. And I did. I did. I did my best to slur your name so that you would be done with me. So that you would stop. And when you were done and rolled over and got on your phone as nothing happened. Leaving me in the sin. And, when you gave me a disease. A disease from a boy I didn’t even want to have sex with. When I thought I wouldn’t be able to bear children, be a mother. Lay with my husband. I still forgive you, H.

The next day, I gave my boyfriend a kiss goodbye. I knew I could not ever see him, or you, again. So, I left. I said nothing. But, when you found out, B, I forgive you too. When you shamed me, disowned me, when you didn’t believe me. You both were the final kicks to my head. But, I thank you, because when you kicked me, I landed into the arms of my FATHER. And, He has forgiven *me* – *Me!* For everything that *I* have done, the people that *I’ve* hurt. He’s forgiven. H, B, it is because of Him that I am able to forgive and love you. With the same love and mercy He has shown me. You are still worthy. You are still His. Your sins are not bigger than God. The cross was, and forever will be, enough. Do you see now?? Do you see how He makes all things new?

RESOURCES:

- NORTH STAR ADVOCACY CENTER

660.562.2320
- WELLNESS SERVICES

660.562.1348
- UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

660.562.1254

- TITLE IX AND EQUITY

660.562.1873
- MARYVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY

660.562.3209
- NODAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

660.582.7451

- KASEY RAGAN

kragan@nwmissouri.edu
- MEGHANN KOSMAN: COURT & VICTIM ADVOCATE

advocate1@northstarac.org
- NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

800.273.8255

READ MORE LETTERS:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

SUBMIT LETTERS TO:
LETTERSFROM00@GMAIL.COM

EDITORIAL BOARD	
Kendrick Calfee	Editor-in-Chief
Nathan English	Managing Editor
Sidney Lowry	News Editor
MaKayla Polak	Design Editor
Elizabeth Brightwell	Assistant Design Editor
Jon Walker	Sports Editor
Wesley Miller	Assistant Sports Editor
Corbin Smith	Opinion Editor
Addalynn Bradbury	Photo Editor
Mary Grace Rice	Copy Editor
Noah Crowe	Social Media Editor

NEWS STAFF	
Jakob Prater	News Reporter
Kennedy Kalvoda	News Reporter
Maddisyn Gerhardt	Photographer
Silvia Alberti	Photographer
Ayla Campbell	Designer
Alexandria Mesz	Cartoonist

CORRECTIONS POLICY

If you believe information within our publication is incorrect, please email us at northwestmissourian@gmail.com, call our newsroom (660) 562-1224, or leave us a comment on www.nwmissourinews.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We publish letters from readers for free. All letters become the property of the Northwest Missourian, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name, address and telephone number. Letters should be between 150 and 300 words and sent to k.calfee.missourian@gmail.com.

CONTACT US			
Newsroom:	(660) 562-1224	Circulation:	(660) 562-1528
Advertising:	(660) 562-1635	Fax:	(660) 562-1521

NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

An Independent Student Newspaper since 1914.	
800 University Drive, Wells Hall Maryville, MO, 64468	
DIRECTORS	
Steven Chappell	Student Publications Director
Anna Swink	General Manager/Ad Director
AD STAFF	
Vanessa Weiler	Advertising Manager
Jerilynn Hoover	Ad Design Manager
Sydney Cook	Advertising Designer
Grace Lohman	Advertising Designer
Grace Murphy	Account Executive
Devin Jernigan	Account Executive

Your first copy of the Northwest Missourian is free. Additional copies cost 25¢ each.



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR
During the second half of a Northwest-Washburn matchup in January 2022, Trevor Hudgins (right) stares down Tyler Geiman (left). The Bearcats escaped Topeka, Kansas, with a 71-63 win.



FILE PHOTO
Hudgins shows off the 2019 National Championship trophy in the aftermath of Northwest's win over Point Loma, completing an unprecedented 38-0 campaign.

HUDGINS
CONTINUED FROM A8

The Bearcats were tasked with facing Point Loma, led by Division II Player of the Year Daulton Hommes, on that Saturday afternoon in late March. When it was all said and done, their 64-58 win over the Sea Lions completed the first undefeated Division II season in 10 years.

That win helped the 'Cats surpass Findlay's jaw-dropping 36-0 run in 2008-09, and it blew by Indiana's 32-0 campaign in 1975-76.

"That team was just unbelievably talented," Hudgins said. "I mean, I'm still speechless about that year, because it was crazy. I don't even know what to say about it."

Hudgins was named the Elite Eight's Most Outstanding Player in the process, dropping 12 points and six assists in the title game. That performance was symbolic of the season that the MIAA Freshman of the Year had put together.

It was just him being the same player he was at Manhattan.

He didn't need to go toe-for-toe with Hommes' game-high 26 points. Instead, he did the only thing he knows, and that's putting his teammates at the forefront while putting himself second.

"It was fun. I'll always have a lot of memories with that group," Hudgins said. "It was great basketball."

COVID-19, of course, halted any chance of Northwest winning a third title in four year. So after being named the MIAA Player of the Year for a second-straight season, Hudgins the junior decided he wasn't quite done winning awards yet. He wasn't finished winning trophies, either.

Northwest trailed Northern State 76-55 with 3:04 left in the title game of the Central Region Tournament. Northern forward Parker Fox was a massive part in that, dominating the 'Cats with 34 points and 12 rebounds.

Every time Northwest fought its way back into the game, Fox helped Northern pull away.

But there wasn't much that Northern's big man could do to prevent what happened with 12 seconds left.

Then trailing 79-76, Hudgins had the ball in his hands and drove to the left wing, where a Northern defender awaited him. He didn't use two dribbles and a step-through this time, though. Instead, it was a behind-the-back, step-back triple to force overtime and

keep the Bearcats' season alive.

"People practice those kinds of shots," Pat Hudgins said. "So, when those moments come, and you need to stand up and do it, you do it."

Hudgins scored a team-high 29 points that night to push Northwest to a 91-86 win.

"All right, this team's got some fight," Hudgins thought to himself that night. "We might have a chance."

Northwest ravaged through the competition in Evansville, Indiana, winning its Elite Eight and Final Four games by a combined margin of 52 points. An 80-54 win over West Texas A&M in the National Championship secured the largest victory margin for a team throughout the three Elite Eight games (78).

17

wins without a single loss
in NCAA Tournament
games with Hudgins

His part in the Bearcats winning the first back-to-back titles since 1993-94 created a whirlwind full of people thinking — and Division I coaches hoping — he was going to enter the transfer portal.

"Honestly, I was always going to come back," said Hudgins, who entered his name into the 2021 NBA Draft to get feedback from scouts. "I always knew I was coming back."

There aren't any official consensus players of the year in Division II, but if there were, Hudgins would've become one of very few.

"I mean, I don't even think about it. I see it on Twitter or something when people mention me, but I don't even think about it like that," Hudgins said. "I see it after a game, and I'm just like, 'Oh, that's cool. I've been here for awhile.'"

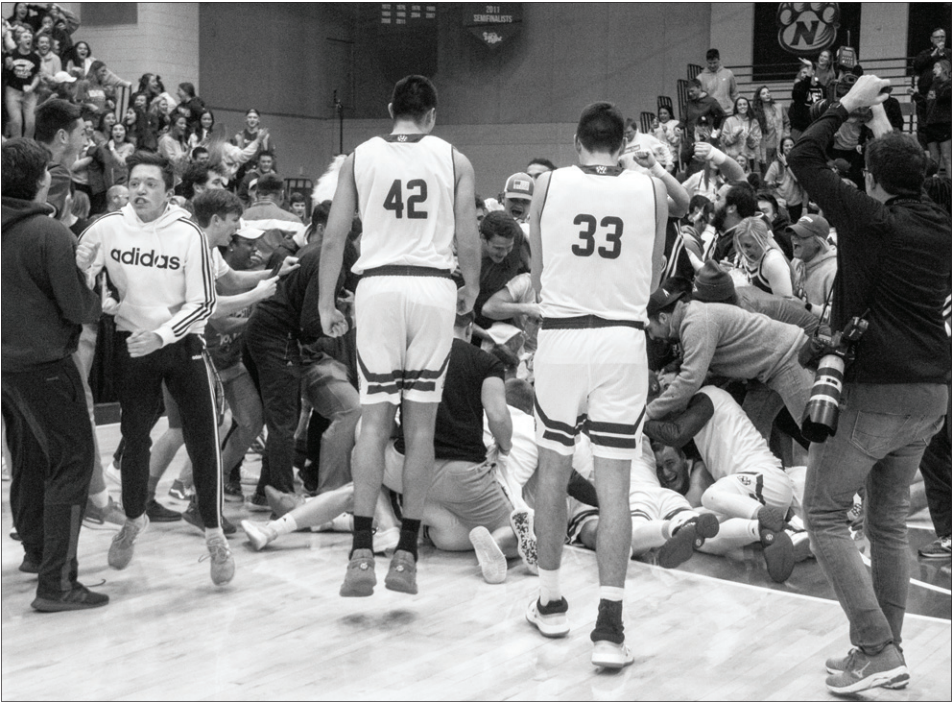
He explicitly remembers one particular tweet, though.

Northwest was beating MIAA foe Central Missouri with roughly seven minutes left in of an eventual 89-49 win over the Mules on Jan. 29. That's when Hudgins nailed a 3-pointer from the corner in front of the Bearcats' bench, officially passing Pitts to become the program's all-time leading scorer.

That moment happened not even two full months after Hudgins recorded the 576th assist of his career, passing Pitts in that, too.

"Knew this day would come, couldn't be more proud of you!" Pitts tweeted at Hudgins. "Knew all them days busting yo a-- would pay off."

"All I remember is coming into Northwest and the (greatest of all time), Justin Pitts, was in front of me," Hudgins said. "I had big shoes to fill, and all I told him was that I was going to break his assist record. Four or five years later, I'm like, man."



FILE PHOTO
Fans and teammates pile on top of Hudgins following a game-winning buzzer-beater to defeat Missouri Southern in February 2020 and clinch the program's seventh-straight MIAA title.



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR
A senior Hudgins gets a layup to go during Northwest's 82-71 win over Missouri Southern on Feb. 1. He used 24 points and five assists to help the Bearcats rout the Lions.

As the clock expired at the Ford Center in Evansville, Hudgins knew exactly what he wanted to do when the final buzzer sounded.

He had just exhausted himself to will the Bearcats to a third-straight national title — something that had never been done until the latter half of this March. His game-high 31 points and five assists in Northwest's 67-58 rout of Augusta led to him, once again, being named the Elite Eight's Most Outstanding Player.

Then the buzzer sounded, the confetti started to fall, and after years of hard work, after years of focus, Hudgins saw the table. It was his Dwyane Wade moment.

He shared a quick hug with Bernard, his teammate of four years, and then, he leaped onto the scorer's table and bellowed into the Northwest faithful before him.

"When I saw him jump up on the table, I knew that he probably felt like Atlas," Pat Hudgins said, referring to the greek Titan. "It was like the world was that ball. He had let that ball go, and he had done what a lot of people didn't think could be done."

"I just knew it was, just — I still don't have words for it."

Hudgins was sitting in the front row of the westernmost bleachers in Bearcat Arena while McCollum made his way to the venue's exit.

Still, to that day, he couldn't fathom anything he had accomplished over the last handful of years.

"It was God's will," Hudgins said. "Like, I never could imagine me getting all of these awards, our championships. ... I would've never thought."

And despite being preoccupied yet again, his eyes started to wander. McCollum was almost out the door, but Hudgins was glad he hadn't left just yet. Even though they had just finished a grueling workout, Hudgins was ready for another.

"Are we going again?" he asked.

"I'm leaving at 2:45 today," McCollum replied. "If you want to, you better be in here stretched and ready to go by 2."

Then, McCollum left.

Hudgins stuck around for a few more minutes, sitting there in the wake of the workout to let his exhausted legs rest. It was a routine that had gone on for the few weeks leading up to that day, and it was a routine the two planned to follow until the NBA Draft in June.

And after he sat there — reminiscing on each and every moment, each and every memory he was set to leave behind — he got up and started to drag his feet toward the locker room.

He wouldn't be gone for too long, though.

There was only an hour before he planned to be back, stretched and ready for whatever McCollum had next.

READ MORE ONLINE

A full version of this story with a closer look at the shortage's impact on scheduling in Maryville is available online at

Pitzenberger
Body Shop



660.582.4599

2711 South Mulberry

'When quality counts!'

'Hounds hold own against bigger schools

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

The Spoofhounds packed their bus April 14 to make another long-distance trip to compete at the Winnetonka Invitational in Kansas City, Missouri. At the end of the trip, Maryville track and field returned home with a pair of top-eight finishes.

The meet hosted a multitude of Class 5 and Class 4 teams, exposing the 'Hounds to competitive levels they haven't seen up to this point in the season.

Seven girls were able to score the points, which is a change of pace from their usual. After the dust settled, the girls finished in eighth with 39 points.

Senior Brooklynn Holtman, the Spoofhounds' leading scorer, tallied 21 points across four events.

"Kids are going to look at her to score a lot of points, so that's kind of her role," coach Rodney Bade said. "Brooklynn is mentoring a lot of young sprinters this year, and that's a big deal to her this year. You want a senior who is not just thinking about herself, but she's thinking about the program and the kind of the legacy that they leave."

Holtman won the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.82 seconds, finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.07 seconds and anchored the 4x200 meter relay to a fifth-place finish (1:53.20). She then came in seventh in her new event this season, long jump, with a leap of 15-1 1/2 feet.

Sophomore Ella Schulte contributed for the 'Hounds as the second-highest scorer. She accompanied Holtman on the 4x200 and scored 3 points with her sixth-place finish in the 100 hurdles (18.35). Fellow sophomore Ava Dumke won javelin with a personal-best throw of 100-9 1/2 feet.

Jesus Flores-Hernandez led the boys in a sixth-place, 52-point performance. The junior's burden in this meet included the 400, high jump, long jump and 4x200, and he scored 20 points between the four events. Flores-Hernandez won the high jump with a height of 6-2 3/4, finished fourth in the 400 (51.75) and ended his day with a fourth-place jump of 20-1 in the long jump. Junior Keaton Stone finished three spots back in seventh with a leap of 18-10 1/2 and was the third leg of the 4x200, which finished 12th.

"I mean, we'll score tons of points with (Flores-Hernandez), and Keaton will score a ton of points, hopefully," Bade said. "It feels like we're doing the right thing in practice, and those are very committed kids. Track is their sport now. They're committed, and other kids will feed off of that, you know? They'll look to them with that leadership, and they're doing great."

Stone also skipped, hopped and jumped his way to second place in the triple jump and even reached a personal-best distance of 42 1/4.

In javelin, juniors Caden Stoecklein and Adrian McGee chuckled their way to second- and sixth-place finishes, respectively, with throws of 143-6 3/4 and 125-6 3/4. Stoecklein's throw marked a new personal best.

"We're diversifying well," Bade said. "Those two javelin throwers, you know, one of them is primarily a basketball and football player, and we're hoping that he'll sprint at some point, but right now, he's doing well in javelin. The other guy, Adrian, he's also a sprinter. Primarily, we've been trying to recruit some kids that can fill those niche events."

The Spoofhounds are scheduled to return to the Kansas City area for the Mineral Water Classic at Excelsior Springs High School April 22.

'Cats find success in California

DAVID DERKS
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Coach Brandon Masters and the Northwest track and field team left behind the rural area of Maryville and flew to California with many expectations. When Masters and company returned, they came back with 15 national marks, 21 personal bests and six school records.

The Bearcats started their trip with the Bryan Clay Invite in Azusa, California, April 13-15 and the Cal State L.A. Twilight Open in Los Angeles April 13-14.

Part of the team then competed in the Mt. San Antonio College (SAC) Relays in Walnut, California, April 14-15, before the whole squad finished out the weekend at the Beach Invitational in Long Beach, California, April 15.

Over 100 teams competed in the four meets in the span of four days, including some professional athletes, Oregon, UCLA, LSU, USC and many other teams.

"This is a big meet — you have big competition," Masters said. "There's a lot on the line, and we travel clear out there for a reason. It really gives the kids an idea of how to step up for the big meet, and one of our biggest meets is conference."

Sophomore Anna Gladstone said the trip was exciting, adding that the weather was perfect. She said it was cool seeing different teams there in a good environment.

Gladstone took part in the Bryan Clay Invitational and competed in the heptathlon



CORBIN SMITH OPINION EDITOR
Sophomore Reece Smith starts his kick for the final lap of the 1,500-meter run at the SBU Bearcat Invite April 2. Smith won the event with a time of 3:51.94 before anchoring the 4x400 to a win later in the meet.

event. Despite the busy day, Gladstone set personal records in five of the seven events.

"I'm actually really happy with how I performed," Gladstone said. "I dropped a lot (of time) in the 800 and the hurdles, and I know there's a lot of room for improvement in javelin. I know I can do better, but I'm very happy with how I did."

"She can do everything," Masters said. "A lot of kids can't do those things ... so having her achieve so much as a sophomore — she's fired

up, she's motivated — and she's going to do nothing but get better."

Redshirt freshman Reece Smith ran in the 5,000 and the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Mt. SAC Relays. Smith placed 29th in the 5,000 with a time of 14 minutes, 12 seconds and 94 milliseconds and third in the steeplechase with a time of 8:39.09, behind BYU's Kenneth Rooks and Montana State's Levi Taylor. Smith earned an NCAA provisional mark and a personal record in both events.

Maryville dominates Benton to nab third MEC win of season

WESLEY MILLER
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

The orange flag that hung on its pole in the southeast corner of the pitch waved as the ball sat below it on the ground.

Fans and players alike watched as Maryville girls soccer senior forward Cleo Johnson lined herself up behind the ball, of which the colors matched that of her jersey. She nestled herself between the ball and the track surrounding the field at the Hound Pound.

On the field, her teammates and opponents were awaiting her kick.

"We've been doing a lot of corner work in practice," Johnson said. "We've been working on crossovers a bunch. The amount of corners we've had to take in the past month are insane."

Johnson looked once more at the field, where the players remained waiting, and focused back on the ball. She ran right at it, swung back her leg and hurled it through Monday night's crisp evening air.

It bounced back onto the ground it had just left and floated in the air. The ball attempted to make its way back down, but Maryville freshman forward Braelyn Hannigan had another idea.

Hannigan used a header to sneak a ball through the grasp of Benton freshman goalie Isabel Foster, breaking a 1-1 tie and paving the way for the Spoofhounds' 4-1 win over the Cardinals.

"We responded really well, and we began to create a bunch of chances," Maryville coach Chase Tolson said.

Despite Benton (4-7) being the first team to score, the Spoofhounds (6-2) did not falter from their game plan.

Instead, Maryville kept the ball on Benton's side of the field for most of the first half.

"Their goal came from an er-

ror, but besides that, I don't think I'm overexaggerating when I say we probably had 90% possession in the first half," Tolson said.

Maryville's extended time on Benton's side eventually turned into a score. Johnson, like she did on her assist to Hannigan, looked up at the field in front of her and back down at the ball. As the ball left her foot, it began to curve until it bounced onto the grass behind the goal.

The players and referees began to walk away until one of Benton's defenders suggested it went in.

Johnson and the Benton defender both pleaded to the referees that the ball had gone through a hole in the net. Upon further examination, the referees reluctantly counted it as a point for Maryville.

"I saw it go in, first of all," Johnson said. "But they had me tripping for a second because I was like, 'Wait, did it go in?' Because it curved. I saw that go in."

Johnson scored once more, as did freshman forward Addison Weldon, before the end of Maryville's fourth-straight win after the program's worst start in five years.

The Spoofhounds' win over the Cardinals marks Maryville's fourth consecutive win against Benton and fourth in a row in conference play.

"We have a lot of momentum right now," Tolson said. "We're playing really, really good soccer."

"We keep hyping each other up, and the more confidence we get, the better we play," Johnson said.

The 'Hounds will look to keep that momentum during their weeklong break before their meeting with St. Pius X.

Johnson said the week off is a blessing after four games in just eight days. Part of the mission for the week off will be the recovery from a few nagging physical issues after Johnson left



WESLEY MILLER ASST. SPORTS EDITOR
Maryville senior forward Cleo Johnson dribbles the ball down the field against Benton's defenders. Johnson accounted for two goals and two assists in the Spoofhounds' 4-1 win over the Cardinals.

the game against Bishop Leblond April 13. Junior forward Kennedy Kurz is also dealing with injury-related issues after Maryville's game against Chilli-cothe April 14.

"We need to recover from a few knocks, but I think we'll be ready to go for Pius," Tolson said.

The Warriors (7-2-1) have won seven consecutive matchups against the Spoofhounds dating back to May 22, 2014, including five postseason games.

Despite the lack of success against their MEC foe, Tolson and Johnson maintain confidence in their team.

"We can beat any team, I think, and I think we can beat Pius," Johnson said.

"We've competed with them for a really long time," Tolson said. "We're always right there with them, but I think with the way we've been playing, I think we can finally get over the top and get a win."

SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD'S
WESTSIDE CLINIC

Patee Market
904 South 10th St. Suite A
St. Joseph, Mo. 64503
Phone: 816-344-5233

**Scan to learn about our
Health Services.**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30

DELBERT'S

GARAGE

714 N DEPOT • MARYVILLE, MO

X (660)562-0025 X

"Old Fashioned, Honest Service"

TUNE-UPS, HEATING & AC REPAIR, MISSOURI STATE INSPECTIONS,
BRAKES, COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS, FUEL INJECTION, SUSPENSION
& STEERING, ELECTRICAL, SYSTEMS CLEANING

Meet Trevor Hudgins:



Northwest guard Trevor Hudgins hosts the 2022 National Championship trophy to the crowd following the Bearcats' win over Augusta at the Ford Center.



FILE PHOTO

Northwest guard Trevor Hudgins roars toward the crowd following the Bearcats' win over Augusta in the 2022 National Championship at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana.



FILE PHOTO

Hudgins drives past a defender during the 2019 National Championship. A freshman at the time, he was named the Elite Eight's Most Outstanding Player for his efforts in Evansville, Indiana.

'The best player in Division II history'

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

In late July 2016, Ben McCollum took a trip to Lawrence, Kansas, for an up-close look at one of two guards he and his staff were recruiting that summer.

But it didn't take long for a third to catch his eye.

Sitting at an AAU tournament, McCollum pulled out his phone and texted Austin Meyer, his right-hand man and top assistant at the time.

"Who's this kid? I haven't seen him," McCollum asked.

"They've been in Chicago and all these different places, so we haven't had a chance to see him," Meyer responded.

That's all it took for his sights to narrow on Trevor Hudgins.

And even though the Northwest Missouri State men's basketball coach didn't know much about him, Hudgins had McCollum's attention the rest of the day.

McCollum turned to the mid-major assistant sitting next to him and asked what he knew about that kid from Manhattan, Kansas.

"Yeah, he's not good enough for us," McCollum recalls the assistant saying. "I'm not sure if he's quite good enough for you, either."

Fast forward to earlier this April, with McCollum having just finished leading a workout as part of Hudgins' preparation for the 2022 NBA Draft. The two sat on separate benches in Bearcat Arena for a few minutes, preoccupied by their own separate phone calls.

They went through a lot during the years leading up to that very

moment. They made many impossibles happen together. They rewrote the program's record book together. They won an unprecedented three-straight national titles together.

McCollum seemingly knew what he wanted to say before he made his way toward the exit and to his office. His call had been over for a few minutes by then, and Hudgins had just wrapped his up. And it wasn't but a few seconds after standing up when McCollum pointed at Hudgins and finally let those words slip off his tongue.

"The best player in Division II history," he said. "Not arguably. He is."

McCollum and company captured the program's first national title in March 2017, and that was enough to make Hudgins finally commit. Maryville turned into his home that summer, when he arrived at Northwest and joined the team for offseason workouts.

He was on the heels of a high school finale that included a third-straight Centennial League title and a second-straight year of being recognized as the conference's best player. Manhattan made it all of the way to the state semifinals before a season-ending loss.

But he showed up knowing he

wasn't going to play that year, and it was solely because of Justin Pitts.

Pitts, the program's crown jewel point guard, was readying for his senior season after leading the Bearcats to their title-winning punctuation of the year prior. He wasn't planning on letting some freshman come in and give him a run for his money.

After all, he was Northwest's all-time leading scorer. For now.

"I was hearing he was like that, and

I was thinking to myself, 'I feel like I'm like that. Let me push his buttons real quick,'" Hudgins said. "While I was thinking that, somebody was like, 'Hey, don't talk to him. Don't start. Don't do it.'"

"I've gotta see what he's about," Hudgins answered.

He got an up-close-and-personal look that day, seeing exactly why Pitts was the reigning NABC Division II Player of the Year. Hudgins remembers saying one thing to him, and Pitts responded by draining more than a handful of 3-pointers in a row.

"They were all in my face," Hudgins said. "It was just 3 after 3 after 3. I was like, 'OK, he's legit. He's real.'"

Standing in a locker room on the

"They were all in my face. It was just 3 after 3 after 3. I was like, 'OK, he's legit. He's real'"

-TREVOR HUDGINS
NORTHWEST GUARD

west side of the Civic Arena in St. Joseph, Missouri, freshman Hudgins prepared to take the court in a Northwest uniform for the first time ever.

The Bearcats were moments away from opening the 2018-19 season with a matchup against Northern State, a clash between two heavyweights from the NCAA's Central Region. McCollum, Hudgins and company were hoping to turn the page from the season-ending loss that they were eight months removed from.

They weren't expected to do that, though. That first-round defeat was supposed to be the beginning of a slippery slope in Maryville. Pitts had graduated that spring after shattering a multitude of program records, so there wasn't a single person who could emulate the legacy he had just left behind.

Or at least that's what everyone thought.

Hudgins dropped a game-high 25 points to go along with five assists, four steals and a trio of rebounds. The 'Cats needed overtime, but they escaped with a 72-70 victory.

"Oh my lord," Hudgins thought to himself after playing 42 minutes that night. "Like, this is college."

Agate that was supposed to be the beginning of the end for Northwest instead marked the start of perhaps the most historic Division II season of all time.

Four months later, after winning 37 consecutive games by an average margin of 20 points per game, Northwest had one final obstacle between it and the program's second title in three years.

SEE HUDGINS | A6